

Topps
COMICS

BRAM STOKER'S

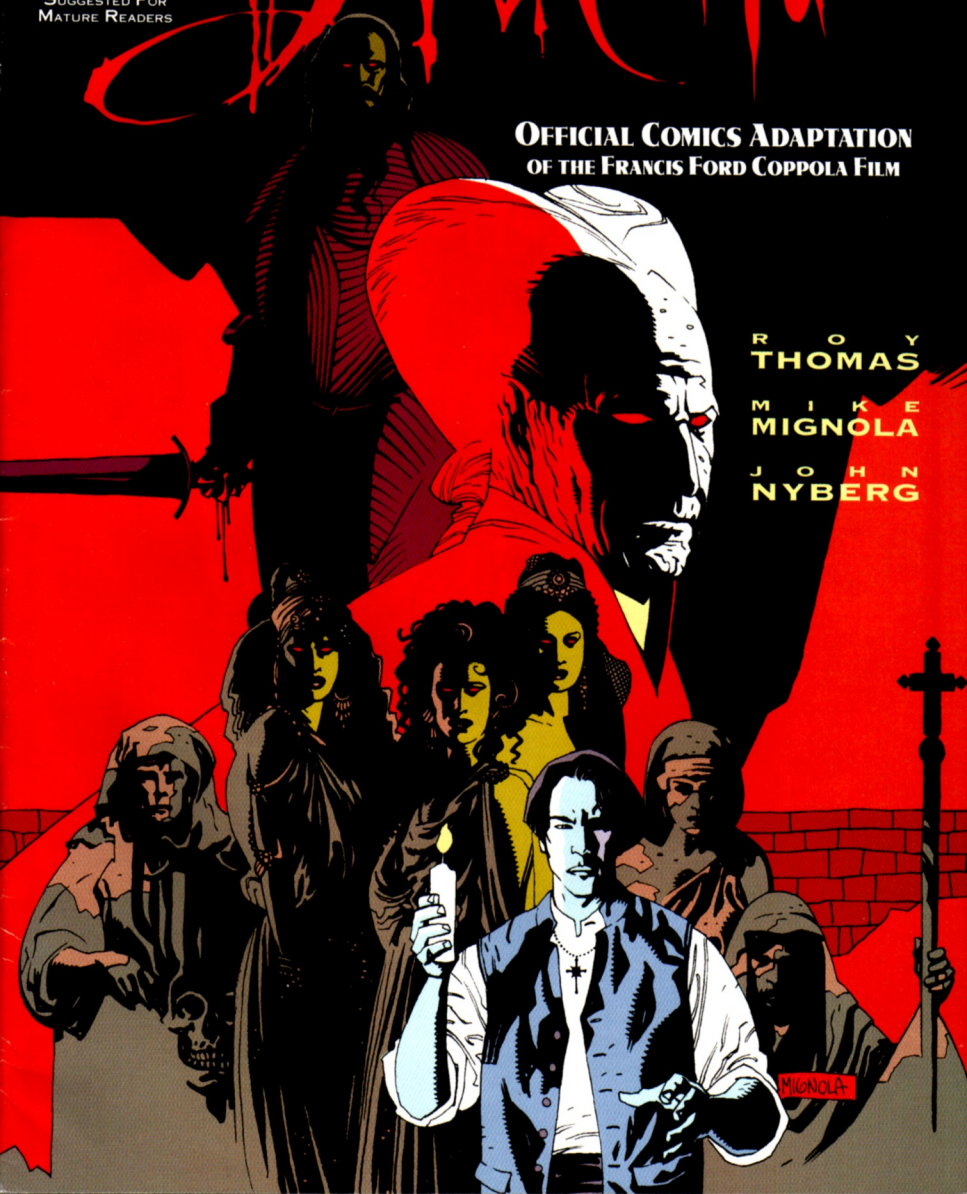
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Dracula™

OFFICIAL COMICS ADAPTATION
OF THE FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA FILM

R O Y
THOMAS
M I K E
MIGNOLA
J O H N
NYBERG



MIGNOLA

BRAM STOKER'S

Dracula

BASED ON THE SCREENPLAY BY JAMES V. HART

ROY THOMAS MIKE MIGNOLA JOHN NYBERG JOHN COSTANZA MARK CHIARELLO

SCRIPT

PENCILS

INKS

LETTERS

COLORS

JIM SALICRUP

EDITOR

"Here begins the untold story of the great Warrior Prince Dracula and his lives beyond the grave. The task has fallen to me, Professor Abraham Van Helsing, Doctor of Sciences, University of Amsterdam, to organize and set to record these extraordinary events of the untold story of the great Warrior Prince Dracula; how he lived beyond the grave, feeding on the blood of his victims for centuries, at war with God in hopes of finding his true love.

"I offer as evidence the documented journals and diaries, letters and memos of Mr. Jonathan Harker, recently of London, Dr. Jack Seward, my former student and colleague, our beloved Miss Lucy Westenra and the personal diary of Wilhelmina Murray Harker... dear Madam Mina. For the record, this being the year of our Lord, if he exists, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine. I begin—"



TOPPS COMICS

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*Moslem
Turks, led by
Sultan
Mohammed,
have driven
the Christians
from
Constantinople
and invaded
Romania with
a superior
force,
threatening all
of
Christendom.*

*A Romanian
Prince from
the region of
Transylvania-
Vlad Dracula,
military genius
notorious
throughout
Eastern
Europe for his
bloodthirsty
ways- leads
7000 of his
countrymen in
a bold sneak
attack against
30,000
Turks... as a
last heroic
attempt to
save his
homeland.*

*Dracula's
surprise
assault routs
the Turks...*



...And his vengeance is swift and merciless.



*But even in the
midst of triumph
for a holy cause...*



*...There can
be loss.*



A MESSAGE--
ON THE SHAFT OF
A TURKISH
ARROW--

--IT
REPORTED YOU
KILLED.

WE--COULD
NOT STOP HER.

HER LAST
WORDS...

"My Prince
is dead.
All is
lost without
him. May
God unite
us in
heaven!"

SHE HAS TAKEN HER
OWN LIFE, MY SON.

HER SOUL CANNOT BE
SAVED. SHE IS DAMNED.

IT IS GOD'S
LAW...

IS THIS MY
REWARD FOR
DEFENDING GOD'S
CHURCH?

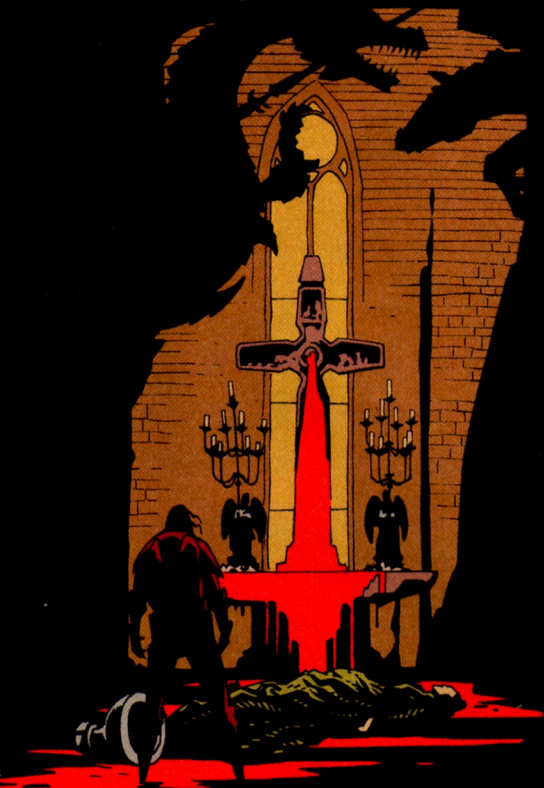
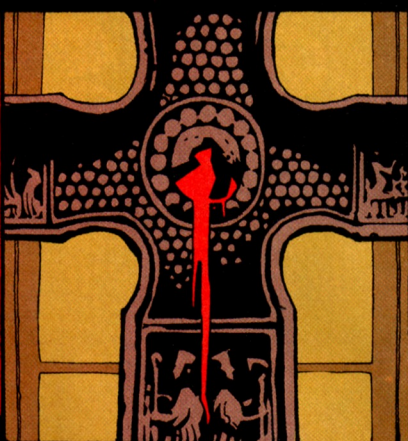
SACRILEGE!
DO NOT TURN YOUR
BACK ON CHRIST!

HE HAS CHOSEN
YOU TO PUNISH
INJUSTICE!

I RENOUNCE
GOD-- AND ALL
YOU HYPOCRITES
WHO FEED OFF
HIM!

IF MY BELOVED
WIFE BURNS IN
HELL--

--SO
SHALL
I!



...and the river called Time,
laced with blood, flows
redly down the centuries...



9 May 1897

I arrived today at Hillingham, London, where I shall be staying with Lucy for some weeks. The life of an assistant schoolmistress is sometimes tedious, and I have longed to be with my friends, where we can talk together freely, and build our castles in the air.

Lucy and I have told all our secrets to each other since I first tutored her at Mrs. Whitcomb's school. And now we dream of being married together...



Diary again...Monday. When Jonathan and I are married, I shall be able to be useful to him. And if I can stenograph well enough, I can take down what he wants to say, and write it out for him on the typewriter at which I am also practicing very hard.



MINA...

...IS YOUR AMBITIOUS JON HARKER FORCING YOU TO LEARN THAT RIDICULOUS MACHINE, WHEN HE COULD BE FORCING YOU TO PERFORM UNSPEAKABLE ACTS OF DESPERATE PASSION ON THE PARLOR FLOOR?

LUCY-- YOU SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT MY FIANCE IN SUCH A WAY. THERE'S MORE TO MARRIAGE THAN CARNAL PLEASURES.

SO I SEE...

One
Thousand
and
One
Arabian
Nights
by
Sir Richard

...MUCH MUCH MORE!

OH, LUCY! CAN A MAN AND WOMAN REALLY DO-- THAT?

I DID-- ONLY LAST NIGHT.

FIBBER! YOU DIDN'T!

YES, I DID-- IN MY DREAMS!

JONATHAN-- MEASURES UP, DOESN'T HE? YOU CAN TELL LUCY.



WE'VE KISSED, THAT'S ALL. SOMETIMES I PRESS UP TO HIM,
AND HE GETS SHY AND SAYS GOODNIGHT.

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH REGIMENTS OF MEN FALLING AT YOUR FEET.

BUT NOT EVEN ONE
MARRIAGE PROPOSAL!
AND HERE I AM
ALMOST TWENTY--
PRACTICALLY A HAG.

MISS
MURRAY...

...THERE'S A MR.
HARKER, WAITING IN
THE GARDEN TO SEE
YOU.

JONATHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

ARE YOU DRUNK IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE DAY?

DRUNK WITH SUCCESS,
MINA! YOU'RE IN THE
COMPANY OF A FUTURE
PARTNER IN THE FIRM OF
HAWKINS AND THOMPSON!

MY SUPERIOR, MR.
RENFIELD, FINALLY LOST
HIS GREEDY MIND-- AND
I'VE BEEN PROMOTED
IN HIS PLACE. WE CAN
BE MARRIED-- AS SOON
AS I RETURN!

RETURN? FROM WHERE?

I'M OFF TO EXOTIC
EASTERN EUROPE!

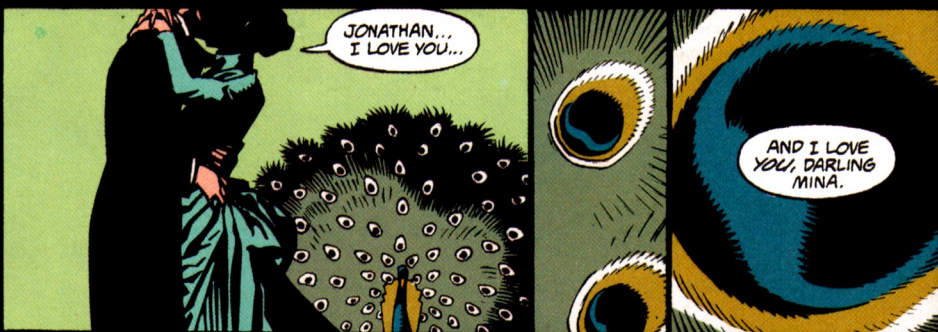
SOME FOREIGN
COUNT IS ACQUIRING
PROPERTY AROUND
LONDON, AND I'M BEING
SENT TO CLOSE THE
TRANSACTIONS. MONEY
IS NO OBJECT!

THINK OF IT,
MINA--ROYALTY!

I JUST WANT US
TO BE HAPPY, DON'T
YOU SEE?

AND WE SHALL BE,
MY LITTLE NIGHTIN-
GALE. I KNOW
WHAT'S BEST-- FOR
BOTH OF US.

I MUST DASH!
MUSTN'T WORRY,
I'LL WRITE...



JONATHAN HARKER'S JOURNAL

25 May. Left Buda-Pest early this morning. The impression I had was that we were leaving the West and entering the East.

The district I am to enter is on the borders of three states-- Transylvania, Moldavia, and Bukovina-- in the midst of the Carpathian Mountains...

...one of the wildest and least known portions of Europe.

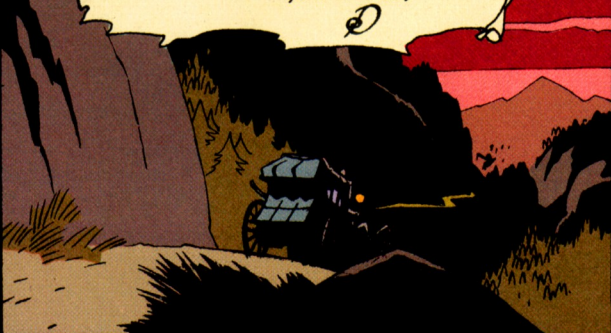


My Friend--Welcome to the Carpathians. I am anxiously expecting you...

At the Borgo Pass, my carriage will await you and bring you to me. I trust your journey from London has been a happy one, and that you will enjoy your stay in my beautiful land.

your friend,

D



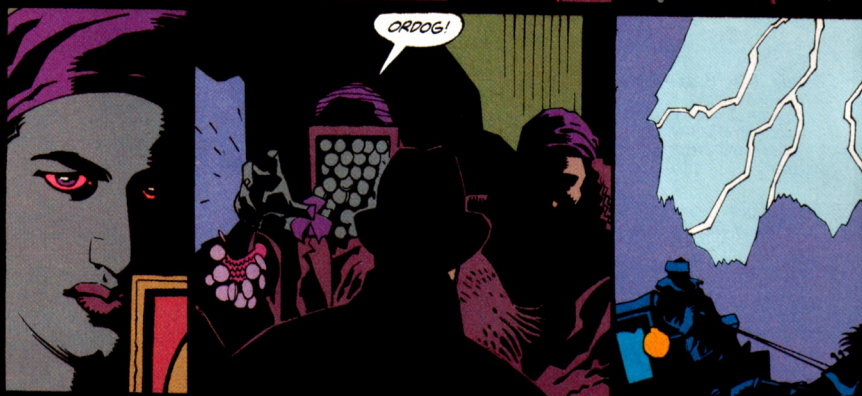
28 May. Finally, tonight, I shall meet the Count. I hope I can complete my business with him quickly...

...so I may return...

...to my beloved Mina.



ORDOG!



WE'VE STOPPED!

BUT WE'RE EARLY. NO ONE IS HERE.

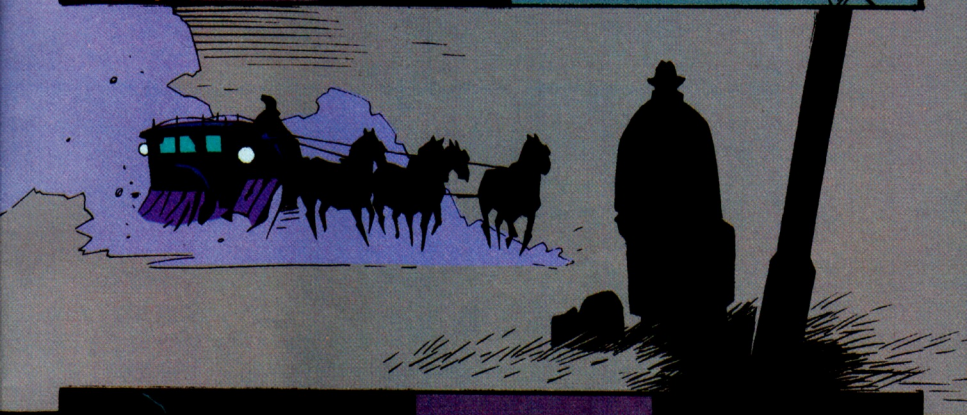


<TAKE THIS...>

<"FOR THE DEAD TRAVEL FAST!">



HROOOO OOOOOOOOOOO



The Borgo Pass. I shall see it tonight, at last.

If I can believe the descriptions of it that I could locate in London, the road through it is an endless perspective of jagged rocks...

DRIVER? AREN'T YOU GOING TOO--

--FAST?

...and of sheer cliffs dropping away to rivers rushing far, far below.

HARRROOOO!
STRIGO!
MORONI!

To traverse the Pass, they say, a man takes his soul into his hands.



Castle Dracula...



If I arrive there by night, as surely I must, given the late hour at which my host's coach will have come for me...



...there will be nothing for me to do but be patient, and await the coming of the morning.

Lucy is to be married in the autumn, and she is already planning out her dresses and how her house is to be arranged.

The only detail she hasn't attended to is who she is going to marry...

I'M SO HAPPY I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF!

I THINK I'M ABOUT TO HAVE THREE MARRIAGE PROPOSALS! I DO HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH OF ME TO GO AROUND!

LOOK! THAT'S A TEXAN-- QUINCEY P. MORRIS!

HE'S SO YOUNG AND FRESH--LIKE A WILD STALLION BETWEEN MY LEGS!

YOU ARE POSITIVELY INDECENT.

I JUST KNOW WHAT MEN DESIRE. WATCH!...

PLEASE, QUINCEY-- LET ME TOUCH IT!

IT'S SO BIG!

YOU ARE SO VERY SWEET AND DEAR...

Number Two is a brilliant doctor. He has an immense lunatic asylum all under his own care. This should prepare him well for life with Lucy.

DR. JACK SEWARD.

JACK! OCEANS OF LOVE--
MILLIONS OF KISSES!

UNNEF--!

MR.
ARTHUR
HOLMWOOD!

Number 3 is Arthur Holmwood,
the future Lord Godalming.
It seems Quincey, Seward,
and Holmwood had adventured
together around the world,
and now they've all fallen
in love with the same girl.

He is
everything
Lucy
requires in
a husband.
Excellent
parti, of
good birth,
and
dreadfully
wealthy.

Lucy says women can't
afford to marry for
love alone these
days-- so *de classé*.

OH, DEAR-- I'VE LOST
AN EARRING!

WHO WILL BE A DEAR AND
HELP ME LOOK FOR IT?

For me, happiness
can only be found
through...

...true love.

WELCOME TO MY HOUSE.

ENTER FREELY OF YOUR OWN WILL--
AND LEAVE SOME OF THE HAPPINESS
YOU BRING.

COUNT
DRACULA...?

I AM DRACULA.
COME IN. THE NIGHT
AIR IS CHILL, AND
YOU MUST NEED TO
EAT AND REST.

YOU MUST TELL ME
OF THE PROPERTIES
YOU HAVE PROCURED
FOR ME.

THE MOST REMARKABLE IS *CARFAX
ESTATE*. THE HOUSE THERE IS QUITE
LARGE AND OF ALL PERIODS BACK, I
SHOULD SAY, TO MEDIEVAL TIMES.

EXCELLENT.
I COME FROM
AN OLD FAMILY,
AND TO LIVE IN A
NEW HOUSE WOULD
KILL ME.

A HOUSE CANNOT
BE MADE HABITABLE
IN A DAY, AND
AFTER ALL...

...HOW FEW DAYS GO TO
MAKE UP A CENTURY!



YOU WILL, I TRUST,
EXCUSE ME THAT I DO
NOT JOIN YOU...

BUT I HAVE ALREADY
DINED, AND I DO
NOT SUP.

THIS CHALICE
IS PERSIAN,
IS IT NOT?

EXQUISITE PIECE,
COUNT. WORTHY
OF KINGS.



AN
ANCESTOR?

I SEE THE
RESEMBLANCE.



THE ORDER OF DRACUL -- "THE
DRAGON." AN ANCIENT SOCIETY
PLEDGING MY FOREFATHERS TO
DEFEND THE CHURCH AGAINST ALL
ENEMIES OF CHRIST.

ALAS, THE
RELATIONSHIP
WAS NOT
ENTIRELY...
SUCCESSFUL.

UH...
HEH
HEH
HEH...



IT IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!
WE DRACULAS HAVE A RIGHT
TO BE PROUD!

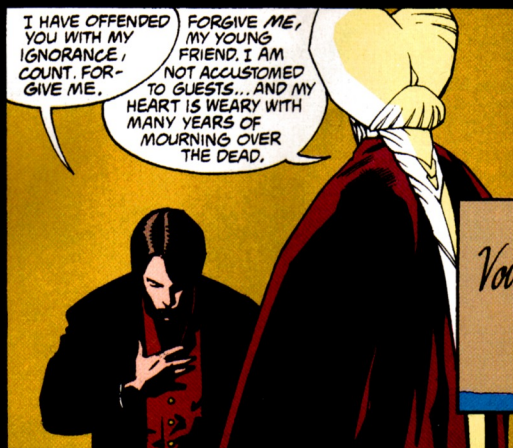
WHAT DEVIL OR WITCH WAS EVER
SO GREAT AS ATTILA, WHOSE
BLOOD FLOWS IN THESE VEINS?



BLOOD IS TOO PRECIOUS A THING
IN THESE TIMES. THE WARLIKE
DAYS ARE OVER.

THE VICTORIES OF MY GREAT
RACE ARE BUT A TALE TO BE TOLD.

I AM THE LAST... OF MY KIND.



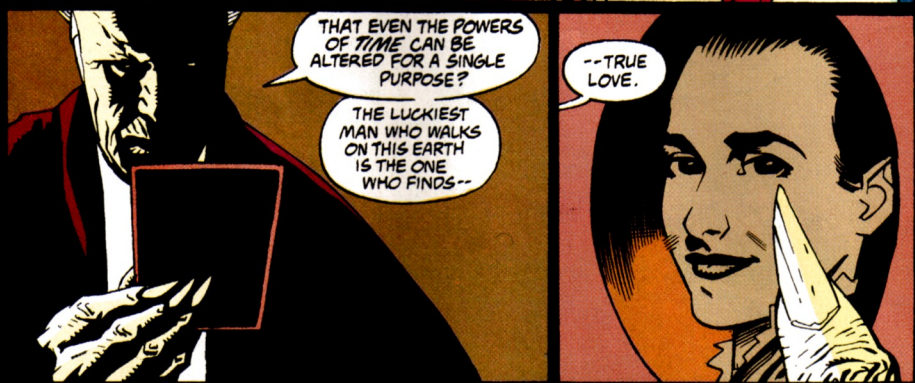
I HAVE OFFENDED
YOU WITH MY
IGNORANCE,
COUNT. FOR-
GIVE ME.

FORGIVE ME,
MY YOUNG
FRIEND. I AM
NOT ACCUSTOMED
TO GUESTS... AND MY
HEART IS WEARY WITH
MANY YEARS OF
MOURNING OVER
THE DEAD.



I DO SO LONG
TO GO THROUGH
THE CROWDED
STREETS OF YOUR
MIGHTY LONDON...

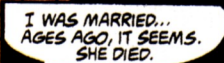
Voivodul Vlad Drac





AH! YOU FOUND MINA! I THOUGHT SHE WAS LOST. WE'RE TO BE MARRIED AS SOON AS I RETURN.

ARE YOU MARRIED, COUNT?

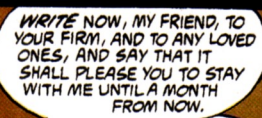


I WAS MARRIED... AGES AGO, IT SEEMS. SHE DIED.

I'M...VERY SORRY.

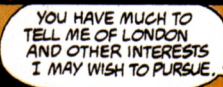
SHE WAS FORTUNATE. MY LIFE AT ITS BEST IS... MISERY.

YOUR MINA WILL NO DOUBT MAKE A DEVOTED WIFE-- AND YOU A FAITHFUL HUSBAND.



WRITE NOW, MY FRIEND, TO YOUR FIRM, AND TO ANY LOVED ONES, AND SAY THAT IT SHALL PLEASE YOU TO STAY WITH ME UNTIL A MONTH FROM NOW.

A MONTH? YOU WISH ME TO STAY SO LONG?



YOU HAVE MUCH TO TELL ME OF LONDON AND OTHER INTERESTS I MAY WISH TO PURSUE.

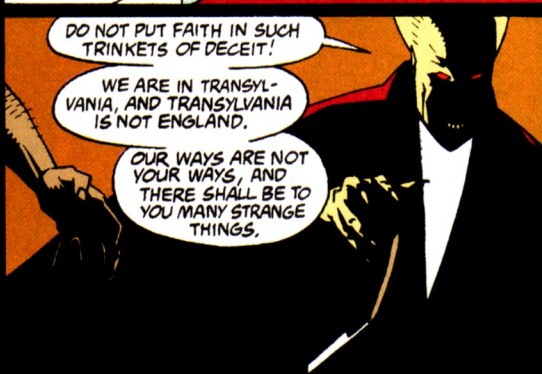
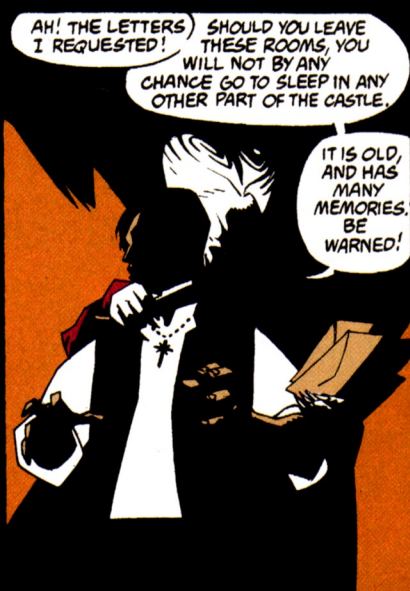
I WILL TAKE NO REFUSAL.

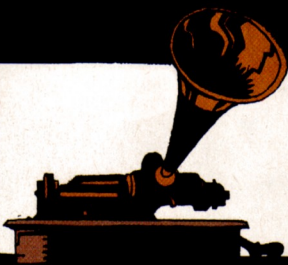
28 May. Castle Dracula. I am in a sea of wonders. The Count's wealth is extraordinary, in spite of certain deficiencies in his house...

...and his eccentric ways.



AHH!





What manner of man is this?

R.M. RENFIELD, solicitor of the firm of Hawkins and Thompkins... just returned from a trip to Eastern Europe with an insatiable hunger for LIFE in any form...

... AND HOW ARE WE TODAY, MR. RENFIELD?

HORS D'OEUVRES, DR. SEWARD?

YOUR DIET, MR. RENFIELD, IS DISGUSTING.

PERFECTLY NUTRITIOUS. EACH LIFE I INGEST GIVES BACK LIFE TO ME. THE SPIDERS EAT THE FLIES...

AND SPARROWS?

THE SPARROWS...

SOMETHING LARGER, PERHAPS?

A KITTEN! A NICE LITTLE, SLEEK, PLAYFUL KITTEN, THAT I CAN TEACH AND FEED AND FEED! NO ONE WOULD REFUSE A KITTEN! I IMPORE YOU--

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE... A CAT?

YES! A BIG CAT! MY SALVATION DEPENDS UPON IT!

YOUR SALVATION?

LIVES! I NEED LIVES-- FOR THE MASTER!

MASTER? WHAT MASTER?

THE MASTER WILL COME! HE HAS PROMISED TO MAKE ME IMMORTAL!

HOW?



"you will not by chance sleep in any other part of the castle..." bad dreams,"
The count has told me. But I feel the dread of this horrible place overpowering
me, so I have picked the lock and gone exploring..."



He also said I would see
"strange things"...

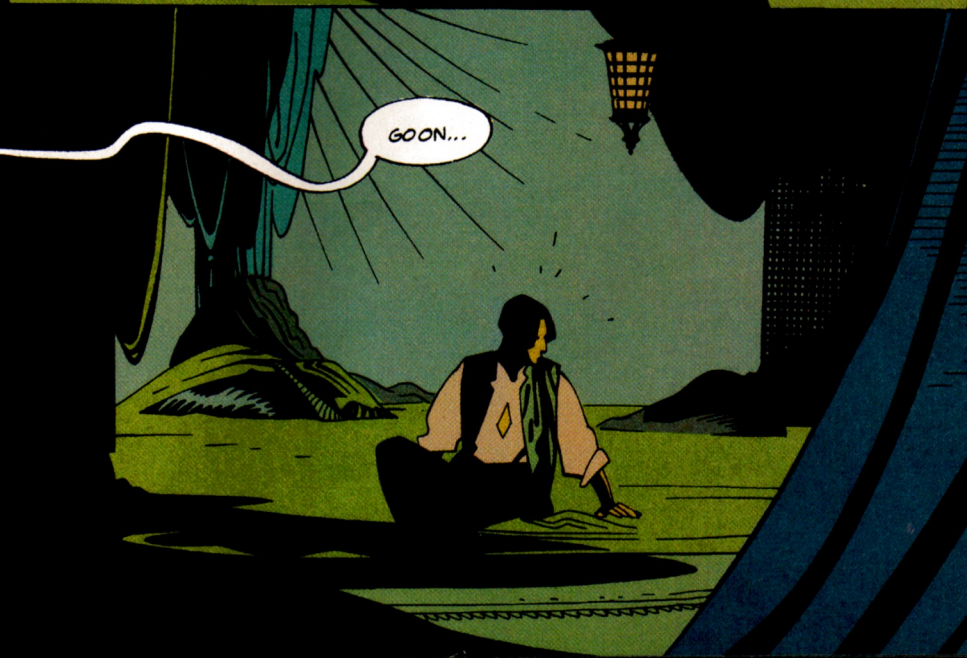
... as indeed I have.

And more must lie ahead...
but I had to chance it.

Forcing the door, I found myself
in a chamber with a sumptuous
tent--a veritable seraglio.

AH! HERE SOME FAIR
LADY SURELY RECEIVED
THE COUNT'S PLEASURE!



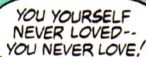


...YOU ARE
FIRST, AND WE
SHALL FOLLOW.

HE IS YOUNG
AND STRONG.
THERE ARE KISSES
FOR US ALL.





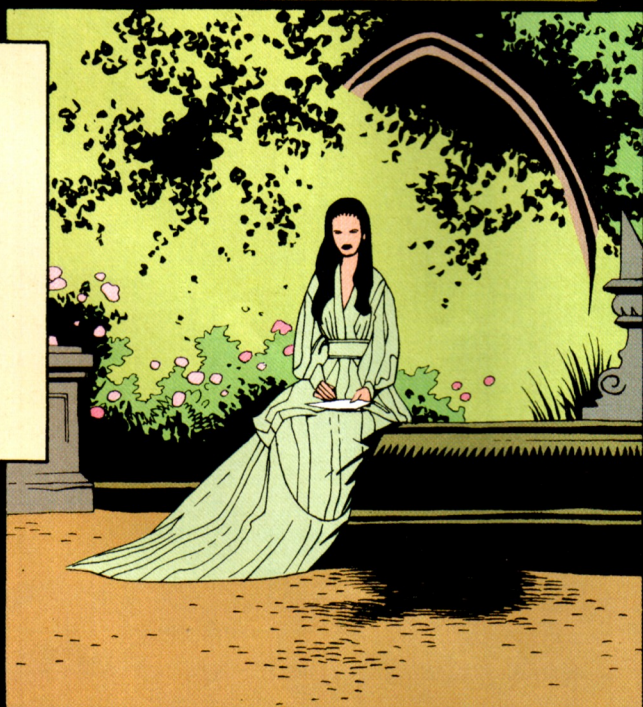






Dearest Mina,
All is well here.
The Count has insisted
I remain for a month
to tutor him in the
English custom.

Jonathan



To be Continued...

INSIDE
COPPOLA'S

Dracula™

PART ONE

Inspiration

Dracula.

The vampire immortal.

Seven decades on the motion picture screen have not diminished his extraordinary appeal and dramatic potential. Actors such as Bela Lugosi, John Carradine, Christopher Lee, Frank Langella, even Oscar-winner Jack Palance -- all have donned the famous black cloak and haunted our collective nightmares. The images are indelible: Dracula transforming himself into a bat, hissing at religious icons, decomposing in daylight, putting the bite on a fetching leading lady. Through it all the vampire king has endured, like some timeless force of nature, waiting to be reincarnated and reinterpreted by a new generation of moviemakers.

Enter Francis Ford Coppola, world-class director of THE GODFATHER trilogy and APOCALYPSE NOW. His ambitious new production for Columbia is based on the original source material: the classic novel, written in 1897 by Bram Stoker. By contrast, previous Dracula films have been based on the 1920's



BY GARY GERANI

Special thanks to Forrest J Ackerman for the Bram Stoker photo.



Director Francis Ford Coppola was inspired by the poetic fantasy films of Jean Cocteau. Another influence was the silent version of NOSFERATU, lower left, which featured German actor Max Schreck as a Dracula-like vampire.



stage play and were therefore limited in a number of important ways.

"The original novel is written as a fragment of diaries," explains Coppola. "It was a Victorian horror story. Stoker's innovation was to use a real historical figure -- a great king, the founder of Bucharest -- but all the same a 14th century man who impaled people on spikes. At the same time, we are aware that many elements commonly used in Victorian storytelling are perceived by modern audiences as camp, so we will be taking a more modern approach to what is shocking. This film will be scary. Moreover, it explores the motivations of this creature who has the traits we all carry to some degree...the essence of the vampire: the psychological hunger."

Coppola's project began life, as film projects often do, in the fertile imagination of a young screenwriter. "From Neverland to Transylvania -- it's been quite a year," muses James V. Hart, author of Steven Spielberg's HOOK and the impetus for this new incarnation of the vampire legend. "I grew up on the Hammer films and Roger Corman's stuff, along with things like BILLY THE KID VS. DRACULA at the local drive-in. Then, in 1977, I read the novel. And the best way to read the novel is to read Leonard Wolf's "Annotated Dracula," which is the



INSIDE COPPOLA'S Dracula

duplicate the majestic sweep of Stoker's novel. As a young film buff, Hart envisioned David Lean (LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, DR. ZHIVAGO) helming the ultimate, big-budget adaptation of DRACULA, complete with a rousing high-adventure climax worthy of John Ford's western epics.

Coppola, too, was dissatisfied with Hollywood's traditional take on this material and was delighted

definitive study of Bram Stoker's work."

It was astonishing to Hart that earlier filmmakers failed to capture the truly remarkable aspects of this character and story. "In most of those pictures, Dracula was just a sort of exploitation, blood-sucking monster, who wasn't very attractive. Nobody played him for the powerful, charismatic hero that he was." Also, none of these previous versions dared to



Top: The warrior prince Dracula, tormented by the death of his beloved Elizabeth. **Right:** The sensuous, deadly vampire brides overpower John Harker. **Lower right:** The grotesquely aged Count Dracula.



when he received Hart's ground-breaking screenplay. For the first time in cinematic history, Dracula was not presented as a one-dimensional symbol of evil; his origin and motivations were clarified. To accomplish this, Hart deftly combined historic fact with Stoker's compelling fiction.

"That was one of the things that attracted me to the script," admits Coppola. "I knew what Jim was doing because I was familiar with the novel and the Vlad the Impaler basis in reality. The irony is that Dracula starts out as a champion of the Church. He was a hero who single-handedly stopped the Turks, a Renaissance prince whose beloved wife, or wife-to-be, commits suicide when she thinks he's been killed. Later the holy men tell Dracula that she's damned because she took her own life, so Dracula rebels and renounces all that is good. To me, the relationship between God and Man is sacramental. It's our blood, the symbol of human passion that binds us to God and, of course, it's a two-sided affair. Man can renounce God if he wishes."

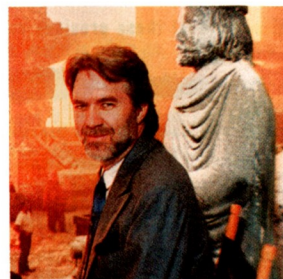
He can, but his soul suffers for it and peace becomes a dream always out of reach. "Dracula offers us the ultimate bargain with the Devil," concludes Hart. "He offers us 'the infinitely stopped moment,' as Leonard Wolf puts it. He can stop time, live forever, freeze himself down and wake up a hundred years later. And I think there's an enormous appeal to leave what is bothering us now and be able to come back in another era. But of course, Dracula pays an enormous price, and that's really the point of the story. He proves to us that eternal life is not everything it's cracked up to be. That it is, in fact, a curse."



Top: Gary Oldman as the title character in London.

Middle: "The Blood is the life!"

Bottom: Screenwriter James V. Hart.



NEXT ISSUE

Dracula arrives in London! Lucy becomes his first victim! Lucy's fiancé calls in a controversial Van Helsing. Mina encounters the vampire count and feels first stirrings of ...love? Also, Part Two of INSIDE COPPOLA'S DRACULA: The Players.

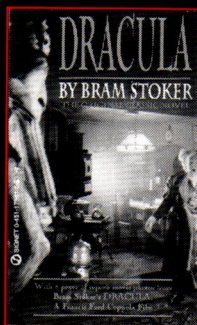
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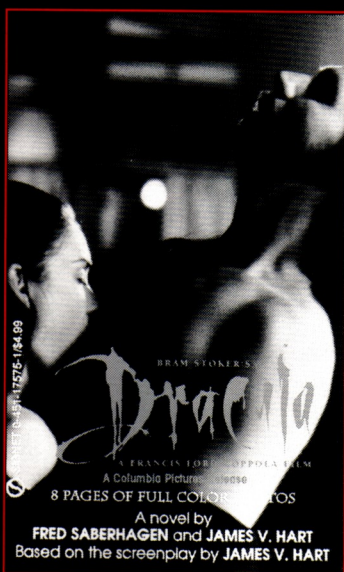
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TWO
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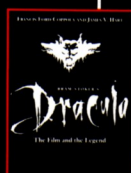
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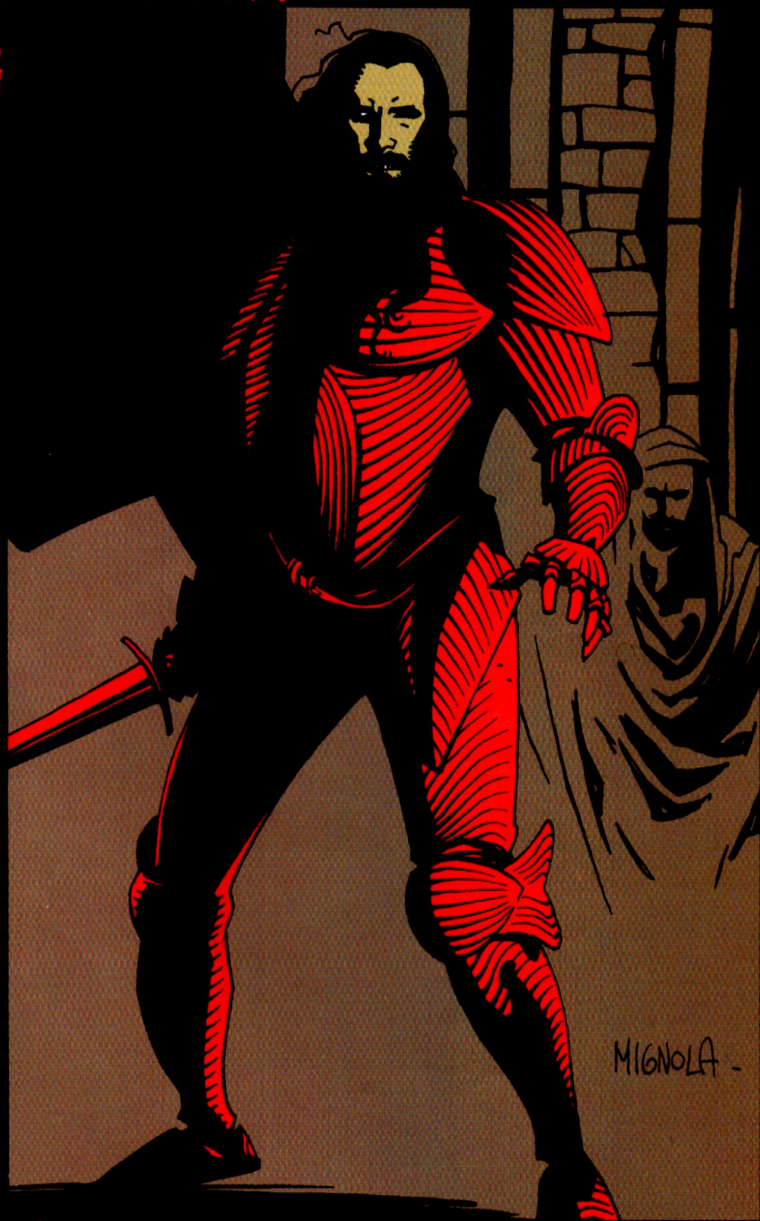


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